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TO: Contractors doing Hydrant Testing in Cobb County

FROM: Tom Simler, Fire Marshal/Division Chief

DATE: November 12, 2008

SUBJECT: Fire Hydrant Flow Testing

This letter is to clarify some hydrant flow test procedures required by this office and to address some common problems this office has been dealing with, in regards to hydrant flow testing reports.

Cobb County Fire Marshal's Office requires AWWA M17 flow testing methods be used with some slight modifications:

- We do not require multiple fire hydrants to be flowed at the same time, instead we require each private fire hydrant (in a complex) to be flowed separately with readings documented for each test. This helps us to ensure adequate fire flow from each hydrant.
- Each test requires two fire hydrants, the flow hydrant and the static and residual reading hydrant. We **do not** allow taking the residual reading from the flow hydrant. The static and residual reading hydrant needs to be on the customer side of the master meter (**not** a public hydrant), this helps us determine the flow available in the complex not just on the county water system. For a complex with only one private fire hydrant one of the following procedures (in order of preference) should be used:
  1. Install a gauge on the master meter and take your static and residual readings from this gauge.
  2. If the building has a sprinkler system **and** there is a gauge on the riser located on the supply side of the riser check valve(s) and backflow preventers, use this gauge to take your static and residual readings.
  3. If numbers 1 and 2 are not an option then use the closest public fire hydrant to take your static and residual readings.

Document clearly on the report which of the above procedure was used and why.

The following is a list of common problems we have experienced with the reports we receive:

- No site map indicating hydrant locations with the hydrants numbered indicating which hydrant is the flow hydrant and which hydrant was used for taking the static and residual readings.
- Not using the "Flow Test Report" form provided in the AWWA manual. **Cobb County Fire Marshal's Office will not accept any other form, or any form not filled out completely.** See the attached copy of this form modified to allow three hydrant flow test to be documented on one sheet.
- Not listing all readings, i.e., pitot gauge, static and residual readings.
- Not listing size of outlet used.
- Not calculating gpm to 20psi.
- Calculations done incorrectly.

**The official Code of Cobb County Section 54-1, states the following:**

When a hydrant is found to be **OUT OF SERVICE**. "Immediate notice will be given to the Chief of the Fire Department." To notify the Chief, contact the Hydrant Coordinator at 770-528-8177 **and** FAX a copy of the flow test to 770-528-8320.

Contractors doing hydrant testing in Cobb County have signed a letter agreeing to follow the AWWA Standard for hydrant testing. Failure to comply with this agreement will result in removal from the list of contractors eligible to do hydrant testing in Cobb County.

If you have any questions, please call me at 770-528-8307.



### HYDRANT FLOW TEST REPORT

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Test Made By: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative of \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

State Purpose of Test: \_\_\_\_\_

Consumption rate during test. \_\_\_\_\_

If Pumps Affect Test, Indicate Pumps Operating: N/A

Flow Hydrants: A<sub>1</sub> A<sub>2</sub> A<sub>3</sub>

Size Nozzle: 4" 2½" 4"

Pitot Reading: 38 100 28

GPM: 2648 1678 2273

Static B: B1 162 B2 164 B2 164 psi

Residual B: B1 87 B2 126 B2 105 psi

Projected Results: 3740 3445 3680 at 20 psi residual

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Location Map: Show line sizes and distance to next cross connected line. Show valves and hydrant branch sizes. Indicate North. Show flowing hydrants – label A<sub>1</sub>, A<sub>2</sub>, A<sub>3</sub>. Show location of static and residual – label B.

Indicate B Hydrant ☒ Sprinkler ☐ Other (identify) \_\_\_\_\_

# Site Map

Sample

